

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 241632Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3896

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LISBON 4843

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN CHANGED TO 4843)

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

DEPT ALSO PASS DIA WASHDC AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ANTI-COMMUNISTS MEET TO DECIDE NEXT MOVE

1. AT NOON 24 AUGUST COL. PAULINO CORREIA, PAF, CONTACTED DATT
AT HIS HOME TO INFORM HIM OF THE FOLLOWING SITUATION:
THE MOMENT OF DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED IN PORTUGUESE POLITICS.
THE ANTI-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES ARE MEETING
TODAY TO DETERMINE THE COURSE OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

2. THERE ARE THREE POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION, ONE OF WHICH
IS EXPECTED TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS A RESULT OF TODAY'S MEETING.
A. VASCO GONCALVES WILL BE DISMISSED OR RESIGN FROM POSITION OF
PRIME MINISTER AND FABIAO WILL BECOME PM WITH ANTUNES AND CRESPO
AS VICE PRIME MINISTERS. THEIR GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY FORMED

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(REFLECTED IN JORNAL NOVO AND EXPRESSO OF 23 AUGUST) CONSISTS OF ONE ANNOUNCED P.S., ONE ANNOUNCED PC (MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION), A NUMBER OF LEFTIST INDEPENDENTS WITH PRATICALLY NO MILITARY PARTICIPATION. MILITARY JOB CHANGES WILL INCLUDE:

GEN. OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO AS C/S ARMED FORCES AS WELL AS CHIEF OF COPCON.

CAPT. VASCO LOURENCO AS C/S ARMY.

B.G. LEMOS FERREIRA C/S A.F.

C/S NAVY REMAINS THE SAME.

COSTA GOMES WILL REMAIN AS PRESIDENT IF HE ACCEPTS THIS PROPOSAL.

THE HANGUP ON THIS PROPOSAL IS VASCO GONCALVES' INSISTENCE THAT IF HE LEAVES P.M. JOB HE WANTS TO BECOME C/S ARMED FORCES.

THE PROFESSIONALS REFUSE ON THE BASIS HE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO WESTERN NATIONS AND NATO.

B. THE SECOND COURSE OF ACTION INVOLVES A FIRM DECISION BY ALL THE MILITARY, LED BY FABIAO AND OTELO, TO INITIATE A PALACE COUP INSTALLING A MILITARY LEADERSHIP AND DISMISSING COSTA GOMES ALONG WITH VASCO GONCALVES. THERE IS GREAT DIFFICULTY IN GAINING UNANIMITY FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION.

C. THE THIRD COURSE OF ACTION INVOLVES THE PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS MOVING TO THE NORTH AND ESTABLISHING A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT; WITH AN ULTIMATUM FOLLOWED BY CIVIL WAR IF NECESSARY TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

3. ALL INVOLVED ARE AWARE THAT CONTINUED INACTION PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF COSTA GOMES AND VASCO GONCALVES. THE PROFESSIONALS ARE DETERMINED TO BREAK THE IMPASSE QUICKLY.

4. THE KEY TO THE ACTION APPEARS NOW TO BE FABIAO WHO RECENTLY HAS GOTTEN THE BIT IN HIS TEETH AND SEEMS DETERMINED TO OVERTHROW V.G. AND HIS PCP CRONIES.

5. THE IMPEDIMENT TO SEEKING USG ASSISTANCE, OFFERED BY AMBASSADOR TO ANTUNES GROUP, IS THE PRESERVATION OF LEFTIST IMAGE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, PRINCIPALLY THE THIRD WORLD. SOURCE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE THAT USG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BE CAMO-SECRET

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FLAGED THROUGH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. DATT REPLIED THAT SUCH A MOVE INVOLVED COMPLICATIONS OF TIMING AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, BUT WE COULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE EUROPEANS TO GIVE AID.

6. SOURCE STATED HE WOULD CONTACT DATT BEFORE MIDNIGHT OF 24 AUG. TO ADVISE OF THE OUTCOME OF TODAY'S MEETING.

7. IF CIVIL WAR IS THE OUTCOME FABIAO GROUP IS COUNTING ON
RIOC, COMMANDOS, AND CAVALRY SCHOOL AT SANTAREM FOR ACTIVE
SUPPORT. THEY EXPECT ALL OTHER FORCES TO EITHER
SUPPORT FABIAO OR AT LEAST TO REFUSE TO OPPOSE HIM.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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